

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Initially, the Applicant notes that the Office Action Summary of the Official Action lists claims 22-40 as pending and 23, 36, and 38-40 as being withdrawn. However, the Applicant respectfully submits that only claims 22-38 are currently pending in the present application (therefore newly added claims, as discussed below, are numbered beginning with claim 39).

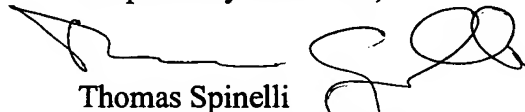
Furthermore, the Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 22, 28, 29, 30/22, 31-35 and 37 are allowed and that claims 24-27 and 30/24 contain allowable subject matter.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims 24-27 and 30/24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response, claims 24, 25, and 27 have been canceled thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot. Claim 26 has also been canceled because it depends from a canceled claim (25). Claim 30 has also been amended to only depend from claim 22 since claim 24 has been canceled (effectively canceling claim 30/24). Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 24-27 and 30/24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Furthermore, new claims 39-42 have been added to further define the patentable invention. New claims 39-42 are fully supported in the original disclosure. Thus, no new matter has been entered into the disclosure by way of the addition of new claims 39-42. The Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 39-42 are at least allowable as depending upon an allowable base claim (22).

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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